New tourism spots in North Eastern States

1493. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are keen to open more new tourism spots to develop the tourism in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the new tourism spots identified in North-Eastern India including Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of new and existing tourism spots is an ongoing process and is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. The Ministry of Tourism assists the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in this process by sanctioning the projects and releasing Central Financial Assistance. The projects identified during the year 2005-06 in consultation with the State Government in North Eastern States including Assam are given in the Statement.

Statement

Projects identified by the Ministry of Tourism in the North Eastern States during the year 2005-06

SI. No	Name of the State/UT	Circuits	Destinations	Fairs & Festivals/Event
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	(1)Geara lake-Taraso (2). Hot Spring, Jia in Debang District	1. Dibrugarh-Passighat-Dayong Ering Wildlife sanctuary 2. Likabali-Basar-Along-Boleng-Yemburg-Passighat	1. Festival of Arunachal Pradesh 2. Brahamputra Darshan
2.	Assam	(1) Guwahati (River Front and Cruise)	1. Dubri to Silchar (Lower Assam to Barrack Valley) 2. Manas-Kaziranga Sanctuary Circuit	1. Rangoli Bihu 2. Elephant Festival 3. Tea & Tourism Festival
3.	Manipur	(1) Imphal	1. Imphal-Bihsnupur-Churchandpur	1. Winter Tourism Festival 2. Chapchang Festival 3. Luingai Festival

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Circuits	Destinations	Fairs & Festivals/Event
4.	Meghalaya	(1)Tura	1. Shillong-Cherrapunji-Jowai-Mawphlong-Tura 2. Williamnagar-Jokhram-Jowai	1. Nongkren Festival
5.	Nagaland	(1) Satoi Range	1. Mokokchung-Mon-Longleng	1. Hornbill Festival (Event) 2. Tsungremnaong Festival 3. Ahuna Festival
6.	Mizoram	(1) Reiek (2) Berwtlang	1. Aizwal-Lengpui-Changsil-Thingdawl-Kolasibl-Vairengte-Buhchang-Bairabi-Mamit-Lenpui	1. Chapcharkut Festival 2. Thalfavang
7.	Sikkim	(1) Sarmsa	1. Rangpo-Lamatap-Rumtek 2. West District Trekking Circuit	1. Kanchanjunga Festival (Event) 2. Food Craft & Culture Festival 3. Namchi Festival

Development of Shani Ishwarappa temple in Pondicherry

†1494. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ. Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any scheme to develop 'Shani Ishwarappa temple' located at Karaikal in Pondicherry from tourist point of view;

(b) if so, the broad outline thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) No project proposal for development of 'Shani Ishwarappa temple' at Karaikal in Pondicherry has been prioritized for grant of Central financial assistance during the current financial year.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.